

# University of Lowell

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### UNIVERSITY OF LOWELL HOSTS IRISH FORTNIGHT

LOWELL, MASS. - The 1979 Ethnic Symposia continues at the University of Lowell as the campus hosts the 1979 Irish Fortnight, March 20 - 26, an international program of the Irish American Cultural Institute in St. Paul, Minnesota. The series offers a rich array of authorities from Ireland in a variety of fields, such as theatre, art, literature, archaeology, and traditional crafts. Admission is free and the public is invited.

This year's theme is "The Irish Woman," and the Fortnight opens March 20 with a one-woman show, "Mothers," by Abbey Theatre actress, May Cluskey, winner of the Best Actress Award at the Dublin Theatre Festival. May Cluskey has had a distinguished 35-year career on Irish stages as well as in films and on Irish television.

"Mothers" is a two hour show written by the actress, comprising poetry and scenes from both classical and modern Irish drama. First performed in 1976, it was later presented successfully at the Abbey's experimental Peacock Theatre.

The performance begins at 8:00 PM in Durgin Hall Performing Arts Center, located at Pawtucket and Wilder Streets, Lowell.

The schedule continues on March 21, moving to a new location at the Fox Student Union Building on Pawtucket Street, across the Aiken Street Bridge, in Lowell. The remainder of the programs are at Fox, with performances beginning at 8:00 PM.

On March 21 Eilean Ni Chuilleanain speaks on the "Irish Woman As Aristocrat." A poet and author, her books include Acts and Monuments, Site of Ambush, Cork, and The Second Voyage. She won the "Irish Times" Poetry Prize in 1966, and edits the literary magazine, "Cyphers."

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A presentation on "Traditional Irish Crafts" by Mary Coleman is scheduled March 22. Coleman founded the Guild of Irish Lacemakers and is a member of the Management Committee of the Crafts Council of Ireland. She has practical knowledge of many crafts, including lace-making, weaving, tapestry, and calligraphy.

Illustrated with slides, the session covers centuries of Irish crafts, and links will be made to art and poetry so that listeners will have a deeper understanding of the social and historical relationships of these art forms.

Helen Hickey discusses "The Stone-Faced Irish Woman" on March 23. She is curator of Fermanagh County Museum, and was the only woman with the Archaeological Survey of the Republic of Ireland, studying monuments in Ireland.

This lecture, illustrated with slides, examines stone carvings of women in Ireland, beginning with prehistoric religious carvings.

March 24 features Margaret MacCurtain, an historian at the University of Dublin and author of Women In Irish Society. She has lectured extensively in Ireland and the United States.

Economist Miriam Daly lectures on "Women in Northern Ireland," on March 25. Daly is currently writing an economic history of Ireland since 1603.

Her lecture deals with the lives and condition of women in the nine counties of Ulster as they were influenced by factors such as the Presbyterian community, unionization, and the modern struggle for civil rights.

The Ethnic Symposia Series began in 1977 under the leadership of University of Lowell President, Dr. John B. Duff and the University of Lowell Foundation, Inc. Support and expertise from all levels of the University and the community has made programs possible, including the Irish Fortnight, a Black Heritage Symposium, Joie de Vivre Franco-Americaine, Hellenic Symposium I, and Polish Heritage Day since its inception. Other academic, cultural, and educational offerings are planned this year through area private support and continuing education.